

pierce wood. Of late years naturalists have observed felspathic rocks burrowed by Mollusca. M. Caillaud of Nantes sent to the Academy specimens of granite from Pouliguen in the Bay of Croisic, perforated by Pholades. The striæ traced in the holes, corresponding with the spiny ribs of the shell of these mollusks, furnished an evident proof that the rock had been abraded by the movement communicated by the animal to the shell. Granite altered by sea-water is more readily attacked.

More recently M. Eugène Robert exhibited to the Academy a block of old red sandstone, obtained from the shore of the great Bay of Douarnenez, which was perforated with numerous holes evidently formed by the Echini which were lodged in them. Each rounded cavity is in exact proportion, both as to size and form, with the body of the Echinoderm.

M. Lory, Professor at Grenoble, and well known for his numerous and excellent works on geology, has begged me to exhibit several specimens of perforating Echini, which have taken up their abode in the granite of the Bay of Croisic, not far from Piriac. It is the same granite as that from the Pouliguen, and in the same state of alteration. This primitive rock is there perforated by Mollusca and Echinodermata for an extent of several kilometers. Those which M. Lory has just discovered are certainly of the same species as the Echini which burrow in the old red sandstone of the Bay of Douarnenez. They closely resemble the Mediterranean *Echinus*, mentioned by Lamarck under the name of *Echinus lividus*. It is one of the most abundant Echini on the coast, and in the market of Marseilles, whence Lamarck obtained his specimens. I have never heard that these individuals possessed perforating habits, and probably a careful examination of living specimens of the *Echinus* from the coast of Brittany may show that it belongs to a distinct species, notwithstanding its apparent identity with that of the Mediterranean. In this case it might be called *Echinus terebrans*.—*Comptes Rendus*, Nov. 5, 1855, p. 755.

NEW SPECIES OF MAMMALS AND BIRDS.

The well-known naturalist Eversmann has recently published a very interesting paper*, containing an account of some of the most recent additions to the Mammalogy and Ornithology of the Russian Empire. The species described are—

1. VESPERUGO KRASCHENINIKOVII, n. sp.

V. dentes primores superiores duo interni bifidi, externi simplices minuti: auriculæ capite breviores, latæ, rotundato-subtriangulares, trago reniformi, dimidiam aurem non attingente: vellus nigrum, pilorum apicibus canis.

A new species of Bat, belonging to the section of the genus *Vesperugo* with 34 teeth—5 molars in both jaws on each side;—it is

* Noch ein kleiner Beitrag zur Mammalogie und Ornithologie des Russischen Reiches, von Dr. Eduard Eversmann; Bull. de la Société Impériale des Naturalistes de Moscou, 1853, no. iv. p. 487.

found on the Ural, and is not uncommon in Orenburg, ; it may therefore be included in the fauna of Europe.

2. *VESPERUGO NILSONI*, Keys. et Blas. Wirbelth. Eur. no. 88. p. xiv.

3. *VESPERTILIO DASYCNEMUS*, Keys. et Blas. Wirbelth. Eur. no. 98. p. xvi.

Both these Bats also occur on the Ural and Southern Wolga.

4. *VANELLUS ARALENSIS*, n. sp.

V. fusco-cinereascens, abdomine, cauda remigibusque secundariis candidis; primariis nigris: alarum tectricibus nigro alboque marginatis: pedibus flavis.

A new Plover, only half the size of *V. gregarius*, Pall. (*i. e. Chettusia gregaria*), to which at first sight it shows some resemblance, especially in respect of its grey colour. It is from the south Kirgess-
steppes, which form the northern shores of the Sea of Aral.

5. *LANIUS MOLLIS*, n. sp.

L. superne cinereo-vinaceus, subtus albidus (fuscescenti-undulatus) crisso hypochondriisque vinaceis: fascia oculari nigra; remigibus nigris; 4^{ta}-9^{na} basi albis: rectricibus nigris apice albis.

Dr. Eversmann gives a further accurate account of this, as of the other mammals and birds mentioned in his paper. This *Lanius* is described as being larger than *L. excubitor*; it was received from the South Altai, not far from the Chinese boundary on the *Tschuja*. It appears to be different from all the species of *Lanius* described by Prince Bonaparte in his excellent review of that genus in the 'Revue et Magasin de Zoologie' for 1853.

Dr. Eversmann's paper also contains some interesting remarks about the supposed varieties of *Dipus jaculus* met with on the southern steppes, which he considers form two distinct species, different from the *jaculus*,—*D. decumanus*, Licht., and *D. vexillarius*, Eversm.; also upon the distinctions between *Lanius phœnicurus*, Pallas, and the common *Lanius collurio*.—PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER.

Description of a New Bird from Guatemala, forming the type of a New Genus. By JOHN GOULD, F.R.S. etc.

GENUS MALACOCICHLA, Gould.

Gen. Char. Bill straight, shorter than the head; culmen keeled, and slightly descending from the middle to the point; tomixæ nearly straight; upper mandible slightly notched at the tip; nostrils placed in a deep depression on each side of the base of the bill; rictus destitute of vibrissæ; wings semiconcave, moderately long and slightly rounded; first quill very short, the fourth the longest; tarsi somewhat lengthened and with slight or delicate scutellations; middle and hind toes very long; tail moderately long, somewhat concave, and soft to the touch.

This form is closely allied to *Grallaria* and *Chamaeza*, and would appear to unite the members of those genera to those of *Turdus*. It is very elegant, all the parts being admirably proportioned; and the colours harmoniously arranged.